

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 DOTE-00 AID-05 FSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2200

INFO FAA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6972

LIMA PASS TO RENE CARDONA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BL

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ICAO - AASANA CONTRACT
EXTENSION

1. ICAO (INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION OF UN) PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT WITH AASANA (ADMINISTRACION DE AEROPUERTOS Y SERVICIOS AUXILIARES A LA NAVEGACION AEREA). PROJECT MANAGER IS JOSEPH A RICCARDI, ON LOAN TO ICAO FROM FAA. PROJECT HAS HAD CERTAIN DELAYS AND RICCARDI CONTRACT DUE TO EXPIRE SEPTEMBER 8. IN VIEW OF EXCELLENT PROGRESS BEING MADE IN JOINT TECH ASSISTANCE EFFORT, AASANA HAS AGREED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT PROJECT CONTINUANCE UNDER RICCARDI'S DIRECTION.

2. PROBLEM PRESENTED BY RAY CHAPEL OF ICAO AND RICCARDI DURING THEIR VISIT TO EMBASSY IS THAT OF PAYMENT PROCEDURES. RICCARDI BELIEVES AS USG EMPLOYEE CANNOT BE PAID DIRECTLY BY GOB ENTITY. THEREFORE, HE HAS REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY ACT AS INTERMEDIARY - I.E. ACCEPT FUNDS FROM AASANA TO BE PAID TO RICCARDI WITHOUT FURTHER EMBASSY OBLIGATION TO EITHER ICAO OR AASANA. EMBASSY FIRST ADVISED CHAPEL AND RICCARDI TO SEEK ICAO/UN ASSISTANCE. THEY REPORT ICAO WILL CONSIDER POSSIBILITY BUT THIS WOULD ENTAIL 14 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE, AND CHAPEL AND RICCARDI ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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SKEPTICAL THAT AASANA WOULD BE ABLE TO BEAR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL

BURDEN.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: CHAPEL AND RICCARDI TOLD BY EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THEIR REQUEST HIGHLY UNUSUAL. HOWEVER, THE PROJECT THUS FAR HAS INCLUDED COMPLETION OF USAID PROJECT EFFORTS BEGUN EARLIER, AND HIGHLY VALUABLE ADDITIONAL WORK TO IMPROVE AIRPORT FACILITIES AND CIVIL AVIATION COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE EFFORTS TO THE GOB IS EVIDENT IN AASANA'S WILLINGNESS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL, INDIGENOUS FUNDS TO ASSURE PROJECT CONTINUANCE. THE ICAO REPS STATED AASANA PLANS TO CONTACT EMBASSY DIRECTLY WITH FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. AT THIS POINT, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL REACTION TO REQUEST BEING MADE. IF DEEMED DESIRABLE, DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONTACT DAN MOORE, CHIEF OF LATIN AMERICAN DIVISION OF FAA, WHO RICCARDI STATED COULD OFFER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR REQUEST OR SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO PROBLEM. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE INVOLVED AND HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE OTHER PROPOSAL. STEDMAN

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